

Sustainability Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
April 10, 2013

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Bill Lennon, Paul Shapiro, Kristin Schwab, Rich Miller, Don Hoyle, Linda Painter (staff), Jennifer Kaufman (staff), Virginia Walton (staff),

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 by vice chair Lennon.

The March 7, 2013 meeting minutes were accepted as amended on a motion by Shapiro/Lennon.

The committee discussed the panel for the April 29, 2013 “Planning for a Changed Climate” program. It was decided to change the composition of the panel to focus on the changes that are occurring in agriculture, storm water management, emergency management and energy. Jerry Berkowitz or Ed Waser was recommended to speak about agriculture, Mike Dietz about stormwater, Fran Riola about emergency management and Lynn Stoddard about energy. Walton will work on putting together the panel.

Walton reported that 180 residents have expressed interest in purchasing solar installations and 6 have signed contracts. The first installation was mounted and open to the public on Saturday, April 6, 2013 and the second installation is happening on Saturday, April 13 from 10 to 2 at 638 Browns Road. A solarize workshop is planned for Wednesday, April 17 at 7 pm in the Mansfield Library. Miller stated that he is working on arranging a solarize presentation for university staff.

The McMahon Dining Hall Renovation project won first honors for the Most Energy-Efficient Building as part of a State-sponsored Power of Change Award, which recognizes state agencies that are leading by example.

Miller stated that an 11-person UConn advisory committee, including town staff and residents (committee members Bill Lennon and Linda Painter served) as well as representatives of local watershed organizations and UConn staff, has recommended a new location for its hazardous waste storage building, at a UConn North Campus/Tech Park site. There will be a public availability session on May 1, 2013 at 6 pm in room 146 of the Bishop Center for the public to ask questions of committee members and UConn staff and reviews maps of the alternative sites considered. This “open house” will precede the first public meeting in the Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) process to be held in the same room, beginning at 7 p.m.

Miller reported that UConn will establish a permanent 102-acre conservation easement in an area of the North Campus that is contiguous to 64 acres of existing conservation area referred to as the HEED (Hillside Environmental Education Park). Committee member Kristin Schwab worked on designing the HEED trails and interpretive signage, and it is anticipated that she will help do the same with the new conservation area. The Tech Park is in final stages of the wetland permitting.

UConn received over 300 comments - most in opposition of the MDC option –on the EIE water supply alternatives. A response will be made to these comments and incorporated in the final EIE, which will then go to the Board of Trustees and the Office of Policy and Management for approval.

Kaufman and Painter reported on Mansfield Tomorrow. They have been conducting focus groups and advisory group meetings as well as open workshops. Although they are missing input from residents 45

years and younger and from the southwest corner of the town, they are actively working on reaching out to this segment of the population. They will be using a new technology to solicit input on specific questions via texting; volunteers may be needed to help distribute posters around town. The focus for the summer will be on drafting a new Plan of Conservation and Development that incorporates elements from the strategic plan, effectively merging the two into one plan. A draft of the assessment tool should be ready for the committee to review in May.

Walton reported that the Town has sent out a request for proposals for solar installations on the parking garage, public works garage and the middle school. Walton asked the committee to comment on a draft proclamation calling for May to be Mansfield Bike Month. Walton will e-mail the draft to committee members.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2013.

The meeting is adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton